

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 NEA-10 AF-10

EB-11 STR-08 CEA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FEA-02

INT-08 ACDA-19 IO-14 /171 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0873

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

SUMMARY: MAJOR WEST GERMAN DAILIES MARCH 5 CARRY BROAD
COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT, EMPHASIZING REAFFIRMATION
OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN.
NOT ALL PAPERS DRAW SAME CONCLUSION FROM THIS, SOME
INTERPRETING IT TO MEAN U.S. NOW STRESSING BILATERAL
RELATIONS AT EXPENSE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP TO A "CRISIS
STRICKEN" EUROPE, OTHERS ATTACHING MORE IMPORTANCE TO
SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON COMPLIMENTARY CHARACTER OF
ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION MOVEMENT.
MOST STORIES NOTE CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT REGARDING U.S.-
FRG AGREEMENT CONCERNING BERLIN MATTERS. LITTLE
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EDITORIAL COMMENT AS YET. END SUMMARY.

1. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (FAZ) STATES IN ITS FRONT PAGE REPORT THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT MADE CLEAR THAT U.S. IS NOW ATTACHING MORE IMPORTANCE TO BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH FRG THAN WITH EC. IT NOTES WARMTH WITH WHICH SECRETARY COMMENTED ON THE FIRMNESS AND LONG STANDING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN AND EXPRESSES THE VIEW THAT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ABOUT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPE WAS MADE IN MORE "DISTANCED" TERMS. PAPER CALLS ATTENTION TO SECRETARY'S STOPOVER IN LONDON ON WAY TO MIDDLE EAST AS WELL AS HIS BRIEFING OF FRG AND NATO ON RETURN TRIP AND NOTES EXCLUSION OF PARIS. IT STATES THAT, IN MAKING THESE ARRANGEMENTS, SECRETARY OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO SHOW RECOGNITION FOR THE ROLE THE FRG PLAYED AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND ADDS THAT THE EXCLUSION OF FRANCE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY RELATED TO THE ISOLATED FRENCH ROLE AT THAT CONFERENCE AND TO THE STUBBORN ATTITUDE THAT FRANCE HAS TAKEN IN QUESTIONS OF EUROPEAN/AMERICAN COOPERATION. PAPER STATES THAT SCHEEL, IN HIS CAPACITY AS EC PRESIDENT, AND ALSO BY VIRTUE OF HIS HAVING JUST MET WITH JOBERT, WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST APPROPRIATE INTERMEDIARY TO MAKE THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS KNOWN TO THE OTHER EC MEMBERS IN BRUSSELS.

2. THE BONN GENERAL ANZEIGER SEES GREATER BALANCE IN QUESTION OF MULTILATERAL COMPARED WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PROVIDES ITS STORIES ON SECRETARY'S VISIT WITH HEADLINE STATING THAT BONN'S RELATIONS WITH BOTH PARIS AND WASHINGTON ARE ONCE AGAIN "ON THE TRACKS". THE PAPER DEDUCES FROM THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS IN BONN THAT THE U.S. GIVES EQUAL STATUS TO ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EC. THE PAPER NOTES WHAT IT CALLS THE "STRIKING CONFIDENCE" WITH WHICH THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN BONN ON THE SUBJECT OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS.

3. MOST PAPERS, IN WRITING ABOUT MIDDLE EASTERN ASPECTS
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OF SECRETARY'S VISIT, PICKED UP STATEMENT OF CHANCELLOR BRANDT, WHICH WAS REITERATED BY FRG SPOKESMAN ON MARCH 4, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO EXPANDED COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL ANZEIGER STORY, WASHINGTON HAS THEREBY "GIVEN UP ITS EARLIER MISGIVINGS ABOUT DIRECT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEANS AND THE ARABS" WHICH ARE INTENDED BY THIS FALL TO LEAD TO A

PROGRAM OF COOPERATION.

4. SWEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (SZ), LIKE FAZ, SEES SECRETARY'S VISIT AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND OF THE TENSIONS WHICH AROSE THERE. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PAPER SAYS, SECRETARY'S PRAISE FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS WAS FELT IN BONN TO HAVE A DEMONSTRATIVE CHARACTER. LIKE ALL PAPERS, SZ NOTES IN PARTICULAR THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT IT WAS VERY HARD TO FIND ANY PROBLEMS AT ALL IN THE AREA OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0874

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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5. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU CARRIES BRIEF EDITORIAL NOTING IMPORTANCE OF REAFFIRMING FUNDAMENTAL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND FRG AT A TIME WHEN DETENTE POLICY IS ENCOUNTERING CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES. THE PAPER STATES THAT BONN SHOULD BE PARTICULARLY THANKFUL FOR THE CLEAR U.S. POSITION ON BERLIN. IT STATES THAT IT IS NATURAL, IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES IN THE FIELD OF EASTERN POLICY, FOR THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE TO MOVE CLOSER TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH THIS BY NO MEANS SIGNIFIES THAT THE WEST HAS WRITTEN OFF THE OPPORTUNITIES INHERENT IN CSCE AND IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. IT EXPRESSES THE VIEW THAT THE U.S. HAS COME TO HAVE MORE UNDERSTANDING FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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EUROPEAN "EQUALITY", AND STATES THAT THERE COULD BE NO GREATER ERROR THAN TO GO ALONG WITH THE DOGMATIC FRENCH EFFORTS TO DRAW AN UNBRIDGEABLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN "ATLANTIC" AND "EUROPEAN".

6. ALL STORIES REPORT BRANDT'S STATEMENT THAT FULL AGREEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE FRG WITH REGARD TO BERLIN MATTERS. MOST OF THEM ALSO NOTE BRANDT'S STATEMENT THAT AGREEMENT WILL HAVE BEEN REACHED BY EXPERTS ON OFFSET BY THE END OF MARCH.

7. MOST PAPERS ALSO NOTE FACT THAT SECRETARY HAD MET WITH CDU PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LEADER CARSTENS, STATING THAT THEY HAD AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING U.S.-EUROPEAN COOPERATION. CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL COMMENTED ON THIS MEETING IN MONDAY AFTERNOON TRANSMISSION OF WEST GERMAN RADIO II STATING THAT THE CDU PRESIDUM HAD ALREADY HEARD A REPORT FROM CARSTENS. KOHL SAID THAT THE CDU WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ITS PARLIAMENTARY LEADER TO SEE THE SECRETARY IN BONN. "IT IS GOOD STYLE," KOHL SAID, "WHEN BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION ARE, SO TO SPEAK, EQUALLY INFORMED BY OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS AND ALLIES."

8. IN MID-EVENING TRANSMISSION OF SECOND GERMAN TELEVISION, THE CHANCELLOR WAS ASKED WHETHER HE AND THE SECRETARY, AS A RESULT OF THEIR CONVERSATION, HAD MADE PROGRESS IN FORMULATING THE BASIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE U.S. BRANDT REPLIED: "YES, ONE COULD SAY THAT. NATURALLY, WE CAN PRIMARILY SPEAK ONLY FOR OURSELVES AND ONLY TO A LIMITED DEGREE FOR THE OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS. BUT, I BELIEVE WE CAN SAY THAT THE TWO DOCUMENTS, ABOUT WHICH SO MUCH HAS BEEN SAID, CAN BE COMPLETED IN THE COURSE OF THE SPRING. BY THAT IS MEANT THE ONE DOCUMENT INTENDED TO RESTATE THE TASKS

OF NATO AND THE OTHER WHICH HAS AS ITS OBJECT TO SKETCH
OUT THE FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF NINE. I BELIEVE THAT BOTH CAN BE
FINISHED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS."

9. IN EARLIER INTERVIEW WITH WDR, FOLLOWING HIS MEETING
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WITH THE SECRETARY, BRANDT WAS ASKED WHETHER MISUNDER-
STANDINGS STEMMING FROM MIDDLE EAST WAR HAD NOW BEEN
ELIMINATED. HE REPLIED THAT THE U.S. AND THE FRG WERE
NOW VERY CLOSE IN THEIR VIEW OF THESE MATTERS. HE
NOTED THAT HIS OWN TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST
REGION NEXT MONTH HAD BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE U.S.
"JUST AS THE AMERICANS INFORM US OF THEIR VARIOUS
EFFORTS THERE. THE AMERICANS HAVE SHOWN A CERTAIN
RESERVE TOWARDS WESTERN EUROPEAN EFFORTS NOT ONLY TO
ENTER AS A GROUP INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARABS BUT
ALSO TO REACH AGREEMENTS WITH THEM. WELL, THAT IS A
PROCESS WHICH IS GOING TO STRETCH OUT OVER MONTHS. I
THINK THAT WE WILL MORE AND MORE REACH AGREED ARRANGE-
MENTS IN THIS AREA. WHERE THERE CONTINUE TO BE
DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, THEY ARE NOT ONES WHICH EXIST
BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN."
HILLENBRAND

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Decaption Note:
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